

MINUTES OF PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 2008 IN ST MARKS METHODIST CHURCH.

Attended by Councillors:- C. Bellamy (Chairman), A. Sanderson (Vice chairman), G. Bellamy, P. Everett, A. Mills, M. Shelley & P. Spriggs.
Thelma Wadsley (Fenland Links), David Morris (Payne Primary School), & 2 members of the public.

08/35. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from P.C. Julie Coales & Jill Tuck (C.C.C.)

08/36. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2008.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

08/37. Members' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda.

Councillors C. Bellamy & G. Bellamy declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Items Numbered 08/39 a), 08/39 c) and 08/39 d).

Reason – Agent also acts for the Councillors.

Councillor Spriggs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 08/39 b) and left the room when this item was discussed by the Council.

Reason – Property to which the application refers is owned by Councillor Spriggs's family and is being sold to Applicant.

08/38. Matters Arising from the Minutes. (For information only).

Bus Shelter Update Report

The Clerk informed the Council that Boston Builders were unable to start the Bus Shelter before the end of March 2008. A.N. White Ltd., had agreed to a fixed price quotation of £7,140 and expected to be able to complete the work by the end of March, subject to receiving prompt approval from the District Council on the style of materials to be used. The District Council had now given their approval for the proposed materials and these had been ordered by Mr White. Weather permitting work would commence next week.

Fenland Links had been informed of the increase in the cost of the project since the submission of the grant application and in view of this increase had agreed to give a further grant of £1,250, making a total contribution of £5,000.

Parson Drove Street Pride Group had received an award and certificates at the presentation evening held at Fenland District Council for their efforts during 2007. The next litter pick was taking place on Saturday 15th March at 10.00am and the group was also intending to start work on the flower bed around the War Memorial during this session.

08/39. Planning Matters & Applications.

a) Planning Application Number F/YR08/0157/F, G. Brownlow, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection a coverall building for storage of agricultural equipment on land north west of Sandalwood Farm. Back Road, Murrow.
Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

b) Planning Application Number F/YR08/0186/F, R. F. Hingston, Agent David Broker Design Services, for the erection of a single storey rear extension to the existing dwelling at 9 Riverside Gardens, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

c) Planning Application Number F/YR08/0214/F, D.A. Hattersley, Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the conversion of existing dwelling to form three 1 bed flats and one 2 bed flat involving the erection of a replacement conservatory, at Southea House, Main Road, Parson Drove.
Councillors resolved to raise reservations on the access and parking provision being adequate.

d) Planning Application Number F/YR08/0256/F, C. Chapman (Longacre Garden Centre Ltd., Agent Peter Humphrey Associates, for the erection of a packing shed for use in conjunction with existing garden centre.
Councillors resolved to raise no objections to the application.

08/40. Thelma Wadsley - Fenland Links Update Report.

Thelma Wadsley informed Councillors that the Public Consultation Day held on the 1st March had been reasonably well attended. Main areas of concern raised were related to speeding issues. The new Children's Centre will be at Murrow Primary School and be built ready for September 2008. The last section 106 working group meeting had been cancelled and she was concerned over the progress being made by the group.

08/41. Accounts & Finance

a) Councillors resolved to approve the following Invoices for payment.
Anglian Water, water rates for the Cage, £28.52. L.G.A. 1972 s.133.
Open Spaces Society, membership renewal, £30. L.G.A. 1972 s. 143.
Glasdon UK Ltd., 2 litter bins, £460.83. Litter Act 1983 ss 5, 6. Highways Act 1980 ss 30, 72.
Mrs Y Reader, Clerks quarter year salary & expenses £1,077.24. L.G.A. 1972 s.112
East Anglia Tree Care, work to trees on village green £2,849.38. Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10.
Agriscap (UK) Limited, concrete bases and fixing of 2 litter bins, £47. Highways Act 1980 ss 30, 72.

b) To agree on a donation/grant to St Marks Methodist Church for use of the Church for Council Meetings during 2007 and to March 2008.
Councillors resolved to give a grant/donation of £100. L.G.A. 1972 s 134.

c) To consider and agree Chattertons, Solicitors, terms and to authorise initial payment of £300.
Councillors resolved to accept the terms and conditions contained in the letter dated 3rd March and approved the initial payment of £300. L.G.A. 1972 s. 222.

d) To consider and agree on request from Young Lives for a grant of £168 to continue with the Jam Van for the Youth from April to September 2008.

On the advice of Thelma Wadsley (Fenland Links) Councillors resolved to defer any decision on this request pending the outcome of further grant applications to the Youth Bank by the Youth Service at C.C.C.

e) To receive and approve a Receipts & Payments Account/Bank Reconciliation and Budget Up Date Report.

The Clerk presented the reports to the Council and although the budget was showing an overspend on predicted expenditure this was more that cancelled out by an increase in the predicted income.

Councillors resolved to accept and approve the reports with no actions required.

08/42. To consider and respond where appropriate to items of correspondence received from:-

a) Letter from Payne Primary School, regarding lack of footways at Fen Road and speeding through the village.

This matter was discussed with Mr David Morris from the Payne School during public participation. The school were making an application to the County Council under the Safer Routes to School Scheme to try and address the concerns raised. Councillors resolved to support the School in their application to the County Council and agreed with all the concerns raised.

b) Letter from Agents acting for the Diocese of Ely regarding the proposed extension to the churchyard at Emmanuel Church.

The provisional terms and conditions set out in the letter were discussed by Councillors and it was resolved that the Clerk respond advising of the Councils intentions to instruct an independent Valuer regarding the proposed purchase of land. Councillors also resolved for the Clerk to respond requesting amendments to the condition relating to the erection of a fence. Also to reconsider sections of condition number 6, relating to the area of land to be subject to the 3 yearly tenancy agreement and sub- letting.

In view of the high costs involved and the unwillingness of the Diocese to negotiate selling the whole area of land Councillors resolved to make enquiries into an alternative proposal.

c) Letter from North Level Internal Drainage Board informing of changes to the collection of Drainage Rates. These will now be due for payment in July for 2008, June in 2009, May in 2010 and April in 2011. No action required as for information purposes only.

d) Notification from the Valuation Officer regarding the reassessment of the rateable value for the Cage.

The Clerk informed the Council that following an inspection by the Valuation Officer and discussions with the Clerk a notification dated 22nd February had been received confirming that the rateable value for the Cage has been reduced from £3,000 to £500 with effect from the 1st April 2005. No further action required pending possible refund from the District Council.

e) Letter from Fenland District Council advising of the changes to the standard Planning Application Form.

No action required as for information purposes only.

f) Invitation by Fenland Links to attend a meeting on the review of Neighbourhood Policing on 27th March at the Elme Hall Hotel.

Councillors C. Bellamy, G. Bellamy & M. Shelley agreed to attend.

g) Invitation from Cambs ACRE to attend a conference on Play space on Wednesday 26th March 9.30 to 2.00pm at The Pavilion, Brooklands Centre, Sutton.

No Councillors indicated a wish to attend.

h) Notification by Elgood & Sons Ltd., of change of tenant at the Swan Inn, Parson Drove.

No action required as for information purposes only.

08/43. To report any faulty street lights & highway matters.

The Clerk was requested to report 2 faulty streetlights along The Bank, 1 along Fen Road and 1 along Main Road.

No new highway issues were raised for reporting. The footway along Riverside Gardens had been repaired. A letter from C.C.C. highways advised that the white lines along The Bank, the footway along Fen Road and the pot holes along Seadyke were being attended to.

08/44. To approve the draft Annual Report and authorise printing.

The Clerk read out the draft Annual Report to the Council and Councillors suggested some minor alterations. Councillors resolved for the Clerk to arrange for these to be printed.

08/45. To receive an Amenities 95 Management Committee Report.

The central heating in the village hall has now been installed. The date for the Annual General Meeting has been provisionally set for Friday 25th April.

08/46. Councillors questions to Chairman & Clerk.

The Clerk was asked if any responses had been received from the District Council regarding The Limes, Main Road. The Clerk advised that a letter had been received in November 2007 stating that the matter was being investigated by the Enforcement Officer. Councillors requested that the Clerk contact the District Council enquiring into the progress of the investigations.

Councillors enquired as to whether any information had been received from the District Council regarding the smoking shelter outside the Swan Inn. The Clerk advised that no further information had been received. Councillors requested that the Clerk contact the District Council again.

08/47. Any other business (information items only).

Councillors raised their concern over the parking of vehicles on the village green, along the access roadway to the Allotment Gardens and obstructing the footbridge at Swan Bridge during a recent fishing match. Clerk requested to write to the Secretary of the Fishing Club regarding this matter.

Reports of excessive speeding along The Bank were raised by Councillors.

Councillors requested that the Clerk report the missing and damaged village signs and road signs through the Parish.

The Clerk advised that ROSPA would be completing their annual inspection of the village green, the swings on the green and the pond during April.

Meeting closed 9.50pm.